Waketh add, Cuba Missile Crisis, where military wanted to start war- May/SAC

The morning of the day Kennedy was to announce his blockade the armed forces alert shifted from peacetime to wartime alert. That was October 22. As James Diglio says in his carefully researched and acclaimed The Presidency of John F. Kennedy (University Press of Kansas, 1991):

> Two days later the Strategic Air Command (SAC) jumped to full-war footing for the first time ever -- meaning that 550 nuclear-bomb carrying B-52s took to the air. Kennedy, McNamara and the JCS did not know that Gen. Thomas Powers of SAC, without authorization, issued the order "in the clear" instead of in code, enabling the startled Soviets to intercept the message. This excessive flaunting of U.S. strategic superiority confirmed the president's and McNamara's fears that the military might precipitate a war (page 203).

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It certainly gave the Soviets reason to believe that we were about to drop those nuclear bombs on them and that others would be launched. In turn, that gave them reason to wonder whether they should try for a nuclear first-strike.

And that would have incinerated the world.